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Lee Patterson
2813 Ulmer Road
Columbia, SC 29209
March 1, 2010

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
Attn: Docketing Dept.
P.O. Drawer 11649
Columbia, SC 29211

Dear Public Service Commission of South Carolina:

I am a long-time resident of our city, and I am writing to express my concern about recent discussion and the pending decision to allow SCE&G to institute an almost 10% rate hike during our already troubled economy. SCE&G already has the "higher rates than other investor-owned utilities, as well as publicly owned Santee-Cooper" (AARP, 2010).

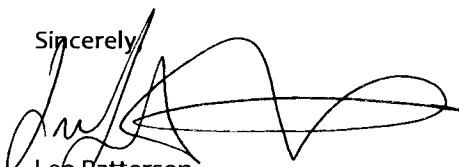
I have read that laws require SCE&G to update or implement a new nuclear plant. However, I am unable to justify for SCE&G the timing of their decision. This winter has been unseasonably cold, jobs have been uncharacteristically hard to find, SC residents are being laid off at unusually high rates, and prices for other goods and services have gone up unpredictably. In case SCE&G hasn't noticed, we're in a recession.

I can't think of anyone this recession hasn't touched. If you have a car you have seen the gas prices. If you have a job, you worry if your company is considering layoffs or a reduction in pay. If you own your own business you have seen a reduction in traffic (unless you own a liquor store). If you have kids you know that their schools have fewer teachers. If you have pets you may have had to consider giving them up to the animal shelter. Times are hard for all Americans having to make decisions they have never had to make before.

What can we do? Do we allow companies to raise our rates when our budgets are already in the red? It's not as if this is cable TV, and we can call Time Warner and cut it off! Electricity is almost a necessity in this society. Sure we can buy energy efficient appliances (if that's in your budget), and light bulbs. We've done a lot of that, but I haven't seen much of a decrease in my bill. My mom had to move in with us a few weeks ago. This proposal is just astronomically high at a time in which most South Carolinians can't afford it.

Please consider the residents and small businesses that will be affected by this decision. Please consider the additional jobs that may be lost, and days without pay employees may be asked to take. Please consider the people who are doing the absolute best they can in this economy to keep their heads above water and their families warm and fed. Please consider South Carolina.

Sincerely,



Lee Patterson
South Carolina resident for 25 years

thank you
for taking the
time to read this!